

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A host cell for expression and secretion of a ~~heterologus~~ heterologous polypeptide, wherein the cell is a *Caulobacter* comprising at least one surface layer transport protein having an amino acid sequence sharing at least 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:5, and wherein the host further comprises a DNA construct comprising DNA encoding a polypeptide heterologous to a surface layer protein of the cell 5' from and operably linked to DNA encoding a *Caulobacter* surface layer protein secretion signal, with the proviso that when the cell comprises transport proteins having the same sequence as both SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:5, the secretion signal is not from *C. crescentus*.

2. (Previously Presented) The cell of claim 1 wherein at least one of the transport proteins of the cell has an amino acid sequence the same as SEQ ID NO:5.

3. (Previously Presented) The cell of claim 2 having transport proteins with the same amino acid sequence as SEQ ID NO:5, and wherein the secretion signal does not comprise SEQ ID NO:1.

4. (Previously Presented) The cell of claim 1 wherein the DNA construct further comprises an operably linked promoter recognized by the cell.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying a *Caulobacter* suitable for use as a host cell for expression and secretion of a heterologous polypeptide comprising:

- (a) extracting DNA from a candidate non-*C. crescentus* *Caulobacter*;
- (b) contacting the DNA with an oligonucleotide capable of selective hybridization to a nucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:5; and
- (c) determining whether the oligonucleotide hybridizes to the DNA.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the oligonucleotide is labelled and said determining is by detection of the presence of the label bound to the DNA.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said determining is by amplification of DNA with the oligonucleotide as a primer, followed by detection of an amplification product.

8. (Currently amended) A DNA construct comprising one or more restriction sites for facilitating insertion of DNA into the construct, wherein the construct further comprises DNA encoding a ~~*Caulobacter*~~-surface layer protein secretion signal ~~not present in~~ of a non-*C. crescentus* *Caulobacter*, wherein said non-*C. crescentus* *Caulobacter* comprises at least one surface layer transport protein comprising an amino acid sequence sharing at least 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:5.

9. (Currently amended) A DNA construct comprising DNA encoding a polypeptide not present in *Caulobacter* surface layer protein, 5' from and operatively linked to DNA encoding a ~~*Caulobacter*~~-surface layer protein secretion signal ~~not present in~~ of a non-*C. crescentus* *Caulobacter*, wherein said non-*C. crescentus* *Caulobacter* comprises at least one surface layer transport protein comprising an amino acid sequence sharing at least 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:5.

10. (Previously Presented) The DNA construct of claim 9 further comprising an operably linked promoter recognized by *Caulobacter*.

11. (Previously Presented) The DNA construct of claim 8 wherein the secretion signal has an amino acid sequence which does not comprise SEQ ID NO:1.

12. (Previously Presented) A bacterial cell comprising a DNA construct of claim 9.

13. (Original) The cell of claim 12, wherein the cell is a *Caulobacter*.

14. (Original) The cell of claim 12, wherein the cell is a *C. crescentus*.
15. (Previously Presented) The cell of claim 13 wherein the DNA construct further comprises an operably linked promoter recognized by *Caulobacter* wherein the DNA construct is expressed in the cell and the protein is expressed is secreted by the cell.
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Original) The cell of claim 2 wherein the DNA construct further comprises an operably linked promoter recognized by the cell.
18. (Original) The cell of claim 3 wherein the DNA construct further comprises an operably linked promoter recognized by the cell.
19. (Original) The DNA construct of claim 9 wherein the secretion signal has an amino acid sequence which does not comprise SEQ ID NO:1.
20. (Original) The DNA construct of claim 10 wherein the secretion signal has an amino acid sequence which does not comprise SEQ ID NO:1.
21. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying a non-*C. crescentus Caulobacter* suitable for use as a host cell for expression and secretion of a heterologous polypeptide comprising:
- (a) selecting a candidate non-*C. crescentus Caulobacter*; and
 - (b) determining whether the candidate has a gene product sharing at least 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:5.